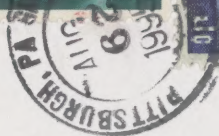


Western Pennsylvania
Numismatic Society
P.O. Box 23404
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-9998

Wayne Homren
1810 Antietam St.
Pittsburgh, Pa 15206

NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES



OFFICERS

President.....Ed Krivoniak
 Vice President.....Larry Korchnak
 Secretary.....Mike Homza
 Treasurer.....Harry Colborn
 Curator.....Wayne Homren

Address

Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Society
 P.O. Box 23404
 Pittsburgh, PA 15222-9998



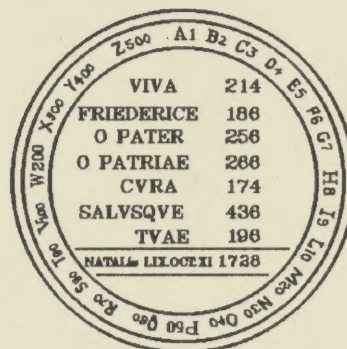
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Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Society

Founded

June 14, 1878

Pittsburgh, PA



118th Year
 1995-1996

Unless otherwise noted, meetings will be held the first Tuesday of each month, at the 7th Floor Conference Room, Allegheny Building 429 Forbes Avenue, Downtown. Doors open at 7:00 p.m., meeting begins at 8:00.

September 5, 1995
"French Tokens of 1848"Larry Korchnak

October 3, 1995
"Numismatic Errors"Ed Krivoniak

November 7, 1995
Social Meeting
Victoria Hall, Bloomfield
6:30 Cocktails
7:30 Dinner

December 5, 1995
"Daniel Boone"Dick Gaetano

January 2, 1996
"Numismatics in the News"Wayne Homren

February 6, 1996
"The Ides of March"Tom Fort

March 5, 1996
"Circle of Friends"Richard Crosby

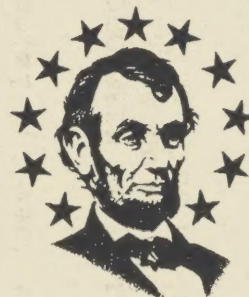
April 2, 1996
Location: Carnegie Museum Annex
5800 Baum Boulevard
"Early Large Cents"John Burns

May 7, 1996
"Stuff"Rodger Hershey

June 4, 1996
Annual Business Meeting
"Swapping Stories"

July 2, 1996
"Greenland Numismatics"Skip Culleton

August 6, 1996
"Canadian Tokens"Corleen Chesonis



The Program Committee urges you to bring recent acquisitions or any other articles of numismatic interest for display at the meetings. Particularly welcome are exhibits related to the current program topic.

Bring a Guest!

The Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Society

P.O. Box 23404, Pittsburgh, PA 15222-9998

THE NEWSLETTER THAT 9 OUT OF 10
PUPPIES PREFER



NEXT MEETING: SEPT. 5
ALLEGHENY BUILDING, 7th FLOOR
GATHER AT 7, BUSINESS AT 8

PROGRAM: WILL BE VERY INTERESTING AND
PRESENTED BY ONE OF OUR BEST SPEAKERS

Because I forgot to ask our program chairman for the name of the coming attraction. If your program is in this envelope, look it up yourself. If not, you know as much as I do. The three officers are doing well; it's just this communication thing.

The last meeting had 17 members in attendance, including our late arrival. What happened to Larry Bassett, who many were led to believe would be there, Lord only knows. John's talk ended up as a general round table discussion of numismatic books and worked fairly well; thanks to Tom, Larry, and others in throwing some fast ones at Mr. Burns. And if the program alone wasn't enough to get you out on a hot, nasty night -- well, let me just say that you missed a history making event: Larry K. referred to Bill Clinton as a S.O.B. Only, he didn't spell it. That alone would have been worth the sweat factor.

One of the regulars who was not there was Rich Crosby. It is my sad duty to inform all that Rich's father passed away at the end of July. Our prayers and deepest condolences, not only to Rich, but to his entire family. Take care of yourself, my friend, and hope to see you soon.

BACK TO THE SOCIAL PAGE AGAIN: The final 83 votes settled the issue of what the dinner choices will be for the social meeting. They are:

Prime Rib \$34.00

Coq au Vin (which drives my spellcheck crazy) \$28.00

The times were set as: drinks at 6:30 PM with dinner to follow at 7:30. Those attending are asked to call Larry at 375-7987 as soon as possible. The cut off date will be here before you know it, so tarry not. The maps and all will be in the next newsletter; I think. Guess I could call Larry, but

A) everyone is out at the ANA

B) I hate telephones

C) I am still shell shocked by the food votes. A hand for this choice, two fingers for that option; Hell, made me want to raise one finger and wave it proudly. We have a wonderful Society full of the best minds in Western Pennsylvania numismatics. One little problem: we cannot vote for doo-doo. If Congress was as bad at voting as we are --- hey, wait a minute; they

(OVER)

are as bad as we are. Guess that really puts the country between a rock and a hard place. Oh well, we will get you the details some way.

MAYBE EVEN MORE MEMBERS? Jerry's two friends, Howard Gross and Chik Ambrass (?), wish to attend a few meetings as guests and may apply for membership in the future. Unless they are there for the next vote, in which case they may run screaming into the night. So, try to get to know these two men in the coming months; what they collect, what they have done, how to spell their names. You know, the regular stuff.

A REGULAR MEMBER CAN WRITE, and he did. I got a postcard from Rodger at the ANA. So, take this as a friendly reminder to bring your ANA finds to the next meeting. We have to get Pittsburgh on the schedule again.

YOU MAY HEAR RUMORS of a private matter between myself and another member. It is just that: private. Did all I could to make that clear.

By a careless accident, the person has now involved my wife. I am not pretty at the best of times. Now that Mary has been hurt, if it becomes a matter of public debate, I suggest that all bystanders duck and cover.

I HAVE ANOTHER BOOK!! For any members (Rich) with a U.S. plate or belt buckle of the military (Rich) from 1795 - 1874, bring it to the next meeting and we can look it up. This is one huge work.

CALLING FOR COLEEN!! To help her, actually. She is looking for good history works on the German State of Hesse. I forgot to ask if she speaks German, so stick to English titles for now.

SOME HELPFUL HINTS IN CASE YOUR SAFE GETS CLEANED OUT: Talking with one of the folks reminded me of an old collectors' trick and led to me finding a new twist. The old trick was to mix some suitable but easily identifiable coins into your collection. Things with distinctive scratches, filled die parts, stuff like that. Get them photographed and use them to start a back trace when the stuff hits the market. The new twist is to mix some slabs into your collection. This could really be a winner for you as each coin is numbered and most draw a premium in the plastic, so they don't get busted out. As much as I hate encapsulated coins, I am now buying several Russian slabs just in case. One of the things Ted is learning is that while getting a bad guy is good, recovery would be great. Tricks like this are needed by all. One guy I talked to found a couple of his slabs in someone's possession. He not only got those coins back, but recovered some he wouldn't have been able to positively identify on the strength of the slabs. Security is no joke. Which is one of the reasons I try to avoid full names in this publication when I can and keep the address list in the safe.

2

AND SINCE I AM THINKING OF TED'S THEFT, LET ME RUN WITH MY TRAIN OF THOUGHT. I heard a discouraging word recently, and since I got cloudy all over the person I may share some of the thoughts with you. One of our local collectors (not a WPNS member) related that as Ted was a dealer, he was aware of the risks in his profession and helping was best left to the other dealers and is not the concern of those of us who are "collectors". Sure, we all know that every dealer is a crook who charges way too much for his coins while cheating us whenever we have to sell something; but, look at it this way: when the crooks run out of dealers, they just might come after us.

I can't believe that in the 30+ years I've been in this hobby we still haven't gotten over this love/hate relationship with dealers. Where the hell else are we going to get our coins? And which of us hasn't tried to deal a little to help finance a coin we wanted? Or a Harley?

One of the things that separates us from most clubs, and allows us to refer to ourselves as a Society, is that we have moved beyond this kind of thinking. Now we need to go the next step and show everyone what a Society can accomplish. I don't know about the rest of you, but I am tired of remembering the past in my collecting experience by who got robbed then. Al Perrin, Orlando, that guy with MS who got held up leaving a show at Eastland. I can count my years by the crimes that happened. And I can not remember a major recovery. I have had it. This was just a "last straw" that I knew was coming sometime soon. That is one of the reasons I am not going to leave all of you alone. WE are the ones who can make recovery happen. Ted knows a lot of people; we know more by a whole herd and then some. If we, and all of our friends, keep the heat on, we can win this one. I am told we keep getting close: well, last years Steelers season ended on a close. It was called a loss. Anyone who is willing to accept a loss should find a less competitive hobby. Like, maybe, yarn collecting.

And not only is theft up, like everywhere, but so is the violence against coin dealers. Bob Rose was killed in his coin shop. It is us or them, folks. And don't fool yourselves: we are each the next target, after Ray and Ted.

AND I GOT A GOOD QUESTION FOR ALL YOU RESEARCH BUFFS OUT THERE. I got a beautiful 1846 N1 for my collection. One small problem: someone in the past started to change the CENT to - well, something else. Does anyone out there know when this practice was done or why? I cannot find that term in my dictionaries of the "vulgar tongue" before 1860 or so. Were people defacing large cents that late? I also heard the explanation once that these "cents" were used as a form of brothel token. Does anyone know who started that (probably fully fictitious) rumor? Let me know, and I will relate the info here. Get to work, Burns. For some reason, I am counting on you to solve this one.

(OVER)

AND PEOPLE THINK COIN DEALERS MAKE HUGE PROFITS, from the world of stoneware collecting we have a case of a miniature churn bought at a house sale for \$2. The buyer consigned it to an auction and got \$9,350 for it. That buyer then sold it for \$13,500 to another couple. They will probably make a profit on it when they sell. They learned what WPNS members always have known; knowledge is king.
That beats that penny found in England that Ted talks about.

WE HAVE A BIG HOLE IN OUR MINUTES BOOK. And I need your help. For every years social meeting, we have the speaker on record, but not much else. I would like to ask each of you to consider writing a short report on the social. What was good, what was bad, how the food was, stuff like that. And see if your wives/ husbands/ others would do something as well. These will be added to our permanent record and will help me with that newsletter. I would like some about two weeks after the event, but will take them any time. A special "please" to those of you who do not make many meetings.

I MAY NEED SOME HELP IN DECEMBER AS WELL since my family will need a lot of my time. If someone could help with the mail, or even the whole thing, please let me know.

I HOPE TO HAVE A REPORT ON HOW ACCURATE THE FIRMS ARE that slab Russian coins for next months letter. If anyone out there could do the same for their specialty, please do so. Does anyone grade English well, or Mexican, or 3¢ silvers? It could be interesting to see how their experts agree with ours. By meeting night, I should be up to a dozen. Does that seem like a fair sample?

COMING SHOWS

SEPT 10 NICKEL TRADER ANTIQUE & COLLECTIBLE SHOW at the Castle Shannon Firehall info at 941-2338 at then go to
SEPT 10 YOUNGWOOD COIN SHOW at the firehall on South 2nd ST.
call Tom Smith for info at 832-8054

NEXT ISSUE: What to do with all those extra tomatoes your garden is producing revealed in the pages of Brown & Dunn.

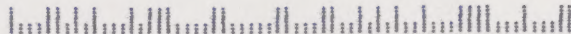
BOY! WHEN I'M RIGHT, I AM RIGHT!!! Instead of the usual cartoon, my space-filler this month is to inform you that I found out who the speaker is. Korchnak will be giving a talk on the French tokens of 18(47?). Larry is by far one of our best at educating us on different subjects, so if you have ever made a meeting, make this one. Maybe he picked the subject do to my sudden interest on things French? Or, is he just trying to show that when a collection is under siege, that even he needs a fall-back collection? Or, has that sneaky devil slipped another war past this old correspondent? Be there to get the full answer. Thanks to Wayne for letting me know.



MR MICHAEL T HOMZA
1226 SUPERIOR AVE
PITTSBURGH PA 15212-2708



Wayne Homren
1810 Antietam St.
Pittsburgh, Pa 15206





Dear Wayne,

Couple things I thought about after we talked, so I figure I'll run them past you; clear some points up in your mind. And being the anti-techno type that I am, I am back to paper. Wish I could still use a pen; the manly way to correspond.

Why I feel Mary was hurt: when I got home from the shop, she was sitting on the couch in tears. She told me that someone had left a message on the machine about them stealing a coin and that I would pay for thinking that. According to her, it wasn't a mean message; but the way it was worded hurt enough that she blew off the tape. Along with two messages I needed for work and one about this weekends battles. Oh, well.

We have been together for twenty years; since highschool. If any two people love it is us. This year has been hard for her. Her brother killing himself on her birthday, her knee injury in January, her change in jobs to a larger firm against her wishes, her mothers heart attack, the court actions involving the estate, the IRS, and all that other stuff. The fact that I had to change my schedule to drive her to and from work most days because sometimes she just can't walk right. A lot of stuff. Having been through grief yourself, I thought you would understand.

I felt the extra strain of trying to help me with what happened in WPNS was something she didn't need. And I tried to prevent it from involving her. But, she got home first and I never expected someone to be so irresponsible as to leave a detailed diatribe on a machine. Any idiot knows that with two people in the house, you stand a 50/50 shot of hitting the wrong target. And everyone in the Society is aware some, and some all, of what she has been through: members were our best help after we asked for it. Even if, this time, no one sent a card or stopped past the funeral home. That is my job, now, and no-one thought to fill in.

I was right about her in most respects. She really wants to be there for me, now: she just doesn't have anything left to give. She knows quite a bit from the message and from hearing bits of a call that night from the person that I tried to avoid until she wasn't around. She doesn't want to know much more about this, but some of the things she does want to know, I cannot or will not answer now. As hurt as she is now, I think she could jump into the fight in some manner and injure herself more and make the situation worse.

I am torn between two thoughts; one is that I love her dearly and really wish to get him for this. Above what he did originally. The other is that I have some hope for him and don't wish to lose that. But, if it comes to a choice between the

Dwo, I will pick her.

That is why I like the mail; with a written cover to a specific name and a personal return address, I know no wives (family or friends) who would open the letter. If a person decides to share it, it is their choice. When you "reach out" and hit the wrong party, ever by mistake, I do not think it says much in favor of the person.

Also, I just hate technology: who else do you know who uses a flintlock for personal defense?

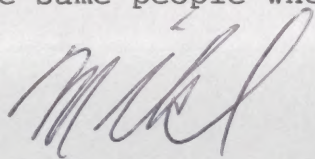
The person seems to love speed in actions. What happened to Mary shows how that speed can do harm. I work a bit slower: so the harm or good goes just where I want it.

I am also a bit disappointed in others a bit. Everyone who knows seems to have the persons feelings at the forefront. What about mine; I lost the coin. What about Mary's feelings; she was a bystander.

Why did no-one consider Dick when Ed and others tried to crucify him? Why did few consider Ted when John tore him up so bad in front of a lot of folks? And all the other things that have happened. Why, now that it involves this person, are all these same people ready to condemn me for something less than what they have done? Is Jerry right when he says that everything has to be done to protect this person because he deserves to be a member more than anyone else? Maybe, he is. Are the critics of WPNS right when they say that in our group some get more rights because of who they are? And that blows the Society of equals you and I have worked for.

Well, I will close for now. See you after the holiday. I will be under canvas, preparing for battle by going to battle. Hope it doesn't happen, but I am ready. And if the shit does hit the fan, I will have the satisfaction of him doing the one thing I would not do on my own; make the circumstances public. I learned enough in my life to know that once that happens, no matter the result, I win. Because some will chose against him and those are the same people who would spread word to others.

Till later, Mike



PS Why is it that from that printer Burns always comes out Bums? I'm really curious about that.

E. Tomlinson Fort

1161 King Avenue, Apt. 2, Pittsburgh, PA 15206
(412) 362-1246

The Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Society
P.O. Box 23404
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-9998

10 August 1995

My Dear Fellow WPNS Members,

Today I received in the post the enclosed letter from our fellow member Mr. Michael Homza. To say that I was deeply shocked and offended by his accusations would be a gross understatement. I have NEVER taken a coin, which was not mine by legal purchase, from any person or institution and I am deeply offended that Mr Homza has chosen to accuse me of such an action. While speaking with me later today Mr. Homza said that I examined his collection of large cents and that sometime during the meeting one of them disappeared. I do not dispute these facts with him in the least, though I must admit that I have no recollection of looking at these pieces. However, I have also examined many of the other fine coins which members have brought to our meetings. Though, in all of these cases I have either returned the coin(s) to their owner or put them back where I found them. What I do dispute with Mr. Homza is his serious charge that I stole one of his large cents and further that I did so for motives of petty personal revenge.

I was in no way aware that Mr. Homza blackballed me in my application for admission to the WPNS until the receipt of his letter. When I was informed that I had been voted in as a member of this society I was told that the vote in my favour was unanimous. Mr. Homza has accused me of taking part, with other WPNS members, in a conspiracy to rig the vote for my election. If such an action took place I had no knowledge of it and it was certainly done without my approval. Moreover, if my election was in any way irregular or illegal I shall immediately resign and resubmit my name for consideration as a member. Likewise, I shall join him in the condemnation of any such fraud and strongly urge the punishment of any wrong doers.

I am deeply sorry that Mr Homza does not like me, for over the years I have certainly come to admire and like him both for his numismatic knowledge and for the efforts which he has made on behalf of this fine organization. Likewise, I

can only admire the exceptional work he has done on behalf of our fellow member Ted Shift. It truly saddens me that this letter reveals another side of him which is far from pleasant.

After speaking with Mr. Homza later today it is obvious that nothing I can say or do will cause him to believe any of my statements. Therefore, I must challenge him to bring forward the "evidence" which he has against me before this society. He and any other members are welcome to question me regarding or to search my home or belongings for the missing coin or to take a photograph of me to any dealer to see if I attempted to sell any large cents, or any other coin for that matter.

To make the accusation of stealing from a fellow numismatist is to say the least a grave attack on my character and I feel that this situation must be resolved as quickly as possible. Since these charges are totally untrue and Mr. Homza has greatly offended me and accused me of a crime without the slightest scrap of evidence, I must request that the strongest disciplinary actions be taken against him by this society. No organization such as ours can exist if a member can freely attack the honesty and reputation of another in such a manner or accuse him of such a crime.

Therefore, fellow members this is why I am sending this letter to you and why I shall be attending the September meeting. At this meeting I intend to bring this matter before all of you for your kind consideration. Mr. Homza has accused me of the theft of his coin and while this charge is totally without merit it is one which will hang over me for a long period regardless of the falsity of the claim. He has likewise accused me of having a petty grudge against him and stealing this coin as a means of getting at him. Finally, he has accused me of conspiring with others to secure my election to this body. In doing so has irreparably hurt me and done so for no logical reason that I can ascertain. Should nothing be done, I am afraid that I shall be forced to submit my resignation to the society since any organization which permits its members to accuse each other of crimes without evidence is one which to which I do not wish to belong.

If any member has any questions or comments regarding these or other related matters they may feel free to contact me at any time either by post or telephone.

Yours sincerely,

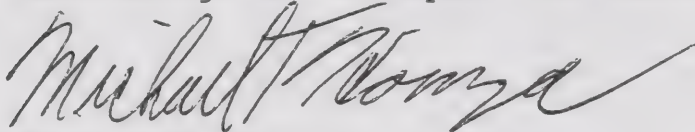

E. Tomlinson Fort

Dear Tom,

Pardon me for approaching you this way, but your actions after the last few meetings leave me little choice.

I am aware that you are the person who stole the large cent from me at the July meeting. You were the only person to handle them. Combined with the motive of wanting to get back at one of the people who blackballed you (I was the only one of the two or more handy) made me an easy target. Since my interest and effort is in helping Ted at this time, and since I agreed to the cover-up of how you became a member, you have committed the perfect crime.

All I ask is that in the future you leave as much space between us as possible. If we have to look like everything is normal to keep things running smoothly, I can live with that. Just be aware that if anything else comes up missing from anyone else, I will name you. Keep your nose clean in the future, and I will consider it as I do now; your attempt at a little revenge. While tempted to ask for the coin back, I won't. I know you well enough not to expect the honorable thing.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Michael T. Homza". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael T. Homza
Secretary, WPNS



MR MICHAEL T HOMZA
1226 SUPERIOR AVE
PITTSBURGH PA 15212-2708



Wayne Homren
1810 Antietam St.
Pittsburgh, Pa 15206



Dear Wayne,

Sorry to hear from you that a friend of mine is being put in the middle again. Since I considered what I wrote before to be private correspondence, pardon me if some of this sounds vague.

Before the July meeting, Harry returned the six large cents I had given him to check my Newcomb attributions. This was at dinner. He had me check them to be sure everything was all right and that I understood the notes he put on with post-its. When I got to the meeting, I checked them again to see if I could figure out how I got three right and three wrong; there were six there. I then put them in the Deluxe Box which I brought for show and tell. While I was taking some club stuff up to Ed and Harry at the other end of the table, I saw another member take the cents out of the box and carry them to his seat. He then returned them just as I got back to my seat. I had put the coins in a rubberband and had another one around the box when I first got to the meeting because I didn't want anything to happen to the notes Harry made me. For that reason, after the one person had handled the coins, I tried to keep others away. That was easy as everyone had seen them in June; the box was the exhibit for July.

When I got home, there were only five coins. I went into panic mode. I pillaged my briefcase. I rummaged my clothes. I did everything I could think of. I called Harry that night to see that I was right when I thought that I had three right so that I could best identify the missing coin. I didn't tell Harry why I called, because I wanted to be sure of what I thought had happened.

I only had the one suspect and the more I thought about it, the more little things kept adding up in my mind. There was the fact that I had had to come public to you and a couple other people about the vote I cast. More people found out about that than I had wanted, with nothing being accomplished. I felt the person was one who found out. When I was talking before the July meeting to another member about the bio's in the newsletters he said something it cutting down on blackballs. At that moment I thought he meant it nicely for the nice things I said about him when I went public about my vote. July was also the first time we had ever had any friendly conversation on any subject; the person just isn't a person I have had reason to talk to before or really wanted to. After the July meeting, what I thought was "nice talk", I realized could also have been nasty digs. I was really sure at that point, but not positive in my heart.

Then came the August meeting. Before I had a chance to talk to him or anything, he came over to me and asked to see the ruble I had along. With me, he has never asked: if he wanted to see it, he just picked it up. This time, he did ask and in such a way that as I looked at him, any doubt I had was gone. I almost exploded on him then and there. Instead I told him to "just make sure it stays here". I did not say it kindly in tone. A couple other things he said that month I took in

a vicious way, in your face kind of.

After that meeting, I thought long and hard about what to do. I really wanted to say something publicly, but I couldn't convince myself that that was the way. I wanted to discuss it with someone else, but I didn't feel it was right to accuse him to a third party before I accused him personally. I thought back to the Buckley stuff. If you recall, or saved any of the notes I sent you, my thoughts back then were that as soon as there was any suspicion, that whoever should have told or written Dick and told him in no uncertain terms what the suspicions were. Tell him he would be watched. And keep it between themselves until it happened again. That Dick was accused to everyone except himself was what offended me. Dick was publicly of something he was never told of. I didn't want to do that, and I wanted to give my subject the same chance I wanted for Dick.

So, I wrote him two notes. Exactly what I think. He seems to think I should have called him. I knew the number I had for him was invalid and I am not used to people in our hobby being listed in the phone book as he says he is. Most everyone I know is unlisted and use PO boxes for security reasons. Also, as you know me fairly well, let me ask you this; if I wrote that angry, how would I have talked? I do not like phones. People hear what they want and then the whole thing becomes a pissing contest. And you never know who is there hearing one side of the conversation. I wanted to keep it between the two of us, so I chose what I felt was the most private form of conversation. That he used the phone and left a strong message on my machine has gotten me in trouble with Mary; you see, I never told her anything about this and she got the message first. All she knows is that I have been pissed for over a month and wouldn't tell her why. The reason I put you on hold twice was so I could ask her to leave when the subject could come up. That little lady is less happy with me now than the person is. My feeling is that if I have to make her mad to keep a private matter private, I will risk it.

What I feel was done, I feel was done purely out of spite. I believe he felt he had a personal grudge against me and took the coin as a way of revenge. I do not think any other member is at risk or I would have spoken to other members about it. I did things that way just in case I could be wrong. I do not think I am, but anything is possible. I felt the way I did it would protect his reputation as much as possible for now.

Two matters seem to keep being repeated. One is what the person can do to change my mind. I suggested what I suggested should have been done with Dick; stay in the club and prove me wrong by his actions and allow some time to pass before we try to work it out between us. I would add to that the request that he say something to Mary that he is comfortable with to save my behind with her.

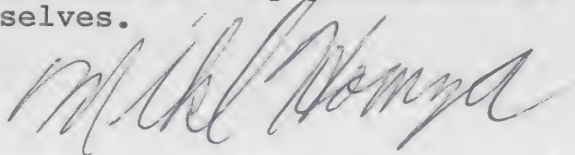
The other is how I signed the letters. My intention there was to leave no doubt exactly who was accusing him. Me, myself. This wasn't someone who knew a little and wanted to

cause trouble; this was me. I wanted to emphasize that it was me beyond any doubt. The reply that purports to be from him that I got had no return address and only an unsigned post-it on it. I feel he left a chance he could deny it; I didn't want to. I used my home return address label and did everything else I could to say it was me.

You are right; this is a mess. I felt with the Buckley stuff that the club needed to develop a way of doing stuff like this. Unfortunately when we are left to fly by the seat of our pants, everyone looses. That is one of the reasons I suggested some policy development on how the club could help people like Ted. Sometimes the minute books are no help, as we leave so much out and I assume others have in the past.

You know how I feel about letters. So, let me add that if you feel that you have a need to tell others of any parts of this, you have my permission to do so or let them read it for themselves.

Mike Homza

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mike Homza", written in dark ink.

PS Just to make things worse for all of us, let me add this thought; if it turns out I am wrong, what the Hell do we do then? Can you see our folks doing this kind of investigation in public? We think the Buckley stuff was bad; we may not have seen anything yet if we have to search for another person.

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

PITTSBURGH, PENNA.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

(Please Print)

I hereby apply for membership in the Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Society, and agree if elected to abide by the Society's rules and by-laws.

Name E. TOMLINSON FORT

Address 17 RIVER ROAD APT. #1
PITTSBURGH, PA 15238 Phone 826-1891

Business PENN STATE Position LECTURER IN HISTORY

Business Address 3550 SEVENTH STR. RD., NEW KENSINGTON, PA

Age 31. I have been interested in numismatics for 7 years, and my present field of interest is WESTERN EUROPEAN c. 286 - c. 1100,
BYZANTINE c. 493 - c. 565

I am now a member of the following numismatic or other avocational organizations (Name in full)

BRITISH NUMISMATIC SOCIETY; ROYAL
NUMISMATIC SOCIETY; SOCIÉTÉ FRANÇAISE DE NUMISMATIQUE;
AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

The sum of \$ 2⁰⁰ is attached, covering initiation fee and dues for 19 -19 .

Date 1 Dec. 19 92

FOR USE OF THE
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

E. Tomlinson Fort
(Signature of Applicant)

As a member in good standing of the W. P. N. S., I endorse the above applicant for membership and enclose herewith a letter of recommendation.

John H. Burns
(Signature of Sponsor)

Dec. 1, 1992

Dear Fellow Members of the Western Penn.
Numismatic Society,

I am writing this letter ~~to~~ ^{to} recommend E.
Tomlinson Fort for membership in our Society.

In the time I have known Tom he has
shown a keen interest in numismatics and our
Society. Currently he is working on his Ph.D
in medieval history from the venerable St. Andrews
University with his dissertation being on a
numismatic topic.

Possessor of a large ~~num~~ numismatic library
we have already enjoyed a talk on medieval coinage
from Tom.

In conclusion I believe Tom would make a
fine addition to our Society and I wholeheartedly
recommend him for membership.

Sincerely,

John H. Burns

E. Tomlinson Fort
 17 River Road
 Apt. #1
 Pittsburgh, PA 15238
 (412) 826-1891

1. According to your application for membership you listed your area of expertise as:

Roman and western European coinages during the late antique and early mediaeval periods (c.285-c.1100), the Byzantine series from the fifth to the late sixth centuries. My specific area of academic research focuses upon the Anglo-Saxon coinages produced between c.750 and c.900.

Why do you like to collect this area of numismatics?

I study coins as a form of historical evidence. I am interested in the light that they shed upon late antique and early mediaeval political, economic, administrative and social structures.

2. Give an example of the type or title of a program that you would present at a W.P.N.S. meeting:

Any talks that I would give would be centred upon my own fields of interest, but would be aimed at a general audience. An example of such a presentation would be the one that I gave in 1992: "Some reflections on an Anglo-Frankish coin type." Possible future talks might consist of papers dealing with the mint of London under Alfred the Great, the administration of the Italian mints under the Ostrogoths, or the monetary policy of the Emperor Diocletian.

3. Do you plan to take an active part in attending of meetings and work on any project or committee?
Which?

I have attended every meeting of the W.P.N.S. since June of 1992 and I strongly hope to be able to continue this practice in the future since I have found all of the meetings to be informative as well as most enjoyable. I would be happy to contribute in any way to the projects in which the W.P.N.S. is engaged. However, I must bluntly admit that since all of the current ones deal with areas where my knowledge is almost nonexistent, any contributions that I might make would be very limited.

4. Why are you motivated to join W.P.N.S.? What do you hope to get from or give to your association?

I desire to join W.P.N.S. because of my interest in numismatics and my desire to learn more about the subject from those whose expertise is greater than mine. I also wish to share my own knowledge and exchange ideas with those whose interests are related to mine. It is my hope

that my membership in W.P.N.S. will provide the society with a member whose area of specialization is of a somewhat unusual area and that I may thus help to expand the society's collective knowledge.

5. What constructive comments could you make concerning the improving of the organization?

None at present.

6. Prior to your final consideration as a candidate for membership in the W.P.N.S. is there anything that you wish to add that might enhance the prospect of your acceptance to the society?

In addition to my answer to question 4 (above), as a faculty member of the Pennsylvania State University I would be able to secure photocopies of material in the university's own collections as well as works in other institutions through inter-library loan for my fellow W.P.N.S. members to use in their own research. I would also make the works in my own library available for use by members. Furthermore, I would be happy to write letters of recommendation on behalf of any W.P.N.S. member so that they might gain access to collections such as the ones in the American Numismatic Society or the British Museum.

E. Tomlinson Post

5 January 1993

MINUTES WPNS FEBRUARY, 1993

On Tuesday, February 2, 1993 at 8:10 P.M., President Gerald Porter called the meeting to order. Eighteen members and two guests were in attendance. Secretary, Donald Carlucci read the minutes of the January, 1993 meeting. The minutes had to be amended to read that seventy-nine copies of the Brewery Tokens Journal were sold and that a total of eighty copies were printed. The amended minutes were approved as read. Treasurer, Harry Colburn gave the Treasurer's report with a total balance of Three Thousand Four Hundred Eighty-Five Dollars and Eighty-Three Cents (\$3,485.83) for the month of January, 1993. Treasurer Colburn related that of this amount Six Hundred Dollars (\$600.00) was in the life membership fund and Two Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty-Five Dollars and Eighty-Three Cents (\$2,885.83) was in the general fund. The Treasurer's report was approved as read.

ALLEGHENY PROJECT

President Porter stated that two more Brewery Token Journals were sold. One more Brewery Token was discovered, so that there are now eight amendments to be made to the original journal. In a similar vein, Richard Gaetano stated that one more item was added to the encased coin journal.

WPNS HISTORY

Wayne Homren stated there was nothing new to report on the history of WPNS.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Membership Chairman, Lawrence Dziubek reported that a potential new member, E. Tomlinson Fort would be voted on at the March, 1993 meeting of WPNS.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letters from candidates running for election in the next American Numismatic Association election were received from David Ganz, running for the Presidency, and Helen Carmody and John Eshbach running for seats on the ANA Board of Governors. A motion was made by Charles Erb and seconded by John Eshbach that the only candidate that WPNS would endorse would be John Eshbach. The motion was unanimously passed.

A packet of fliers was received from Chicago Numismatic Collectors requesting donations to start a numismatic museum in Chicago. Another piece of correspondence was received from a dealer who enclosed a list of Pennsylvania National Currency.

OLD BUSINESS

President Porter reported on the upcoming P A N show to be held in the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh. President Porter is in charge of distributing dealer applications and fliers for the show. He suggested that any WPNS members that were attending future Coin Shows (i.e. Chambersburg, Indiana, and State College) should take the dealer applications with them to distribute at the various shows. President Porter stated that the Bourse Chairman for the PAN Convention Show was John Paul Sarosi, a national dealer from Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

E. Tomlinson Fort reported on a Medieval Conference to be held in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to report at this time.

PROGRAM

The program for the evening was presented by Mr. Richard Crosby. Richard's topic was entitled "Lincoln Campaign and Selection of Medals". Everyone who knows Richard, knows that he has one of the largest collections of Lincoln collectibles and memorabilia in the Pittsburgh area.

Richard first discussed the Presidential Campaign of 1860. This was Lincoln's first campaign for the Presidency. Richard pointed out that the campaign items for this election were more numerous than all the previous Presidential campaigns combined. This was the first campaign where photographs were taken and used in tin-type and degueratype medals.

Richard displayed a series of thirty-five pieces from his collection. The pieces were composed of white metal, copper and brass. The pieces depicted Honest Abe on the obverse and reverse with words stating Rail Splitter, Honest Abe of the West, Free Speech, Free Homes, and Free Territory. Other reverse designs included the American flag, split rails, and the American eagle.

Many of Richard's medals were made with holes and pins so that they could be worn and displayed. Some pieces also included pictures of Lincoln's Vice Presidential running mate, Hannibal Hamlin of Maine.

Richard pointed out that the Lincoln campaign attempted to ignore the volatile issue of sectional separation by emphasizing the personal and symbolic elements that were displayed on the campaign medals of 1860. Not since 1840 had a symbol played such a central role in a presidential election as the split rail of the campaign of 1860. All in all, this symbolism, more over the entire campaign, was a feat worthy of Lincoln's illustrious contemporary, P. T. Barnum.

EXHIBITS

After the program, individual club members discussed a wide array of collector items that they brought to the meeting. The exhibits included books on Medieval Coins, Athenian Coins, Byzantine Seals, auction catalogues and a Five Hundred Dollar book by Sutherland, entitled "Numismatic History of New Zealand" that was published in 1941. Other collectibles that were exhibited were autographs; a Five Dollar (\$5.00) large, national note from the town of Cherry Tree; a General Forbes medal; checks dated 1896; an autographed letter signed by Gilroy Roberts regarding the striking of a Franklin

Half Dollar with a 1964 date; a stationery camera that could be used to take instant photographs of coins and other collectibles; a coin scale; a series of foreign coins featuring Swedish, Latvian, Russian and Ancient Indian; Mexican hacienda pieces; 2" by 2" coin pouches; an ash tray with an elephant design; and a dog teeth necklace from New Guinea that came from the former Howard Gibbs collection.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 9:40 P.M. by Wayne Homren and seconded by John Burns.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald D. Carlucci
Secretary

The Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Society

P.O. Box 23404, Pittsburgh, PA 15222-9998



DATE: March 2, 1993

PLACE: Carnegie Group Offices,
5 PPG Place

TIME: 7:00 P.M. Meeting at 8:15 P.M.

The February meeting of WPNS was attended by eighteen members and two guests.

The program for the March 2, 1993 meeting will be presented by WPNS Treasurer, Harry Colburn. The topic will be "The Bar Copper".

During our business meeting, a potential new member, Mr. E. Tomlinson Fort, will be voted on by secret ballot for membership into the organization.

During the month of March, the following coin shows will be held:

- March 7 Clearfield, Central Pennsylvania
Coin Club Annual Spring Show
Best Western Hotel
Exit 19 I-80
- March 13-14 Indiana, 35th Annual Spring Coin Club Show
Best Western University Inn
1545 Wayne Avenue
Route 119 South
Indiana, PA
- March 27-28 Chambersburg, The Friendly Coin Club
33rd Annual Show
Holiday Inn
Exit 5 I-81

We'll see you on Tuesday, March 2, 1993. Bring a friend! Bring an exhibit! Be there!

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

DATE: MARCH 2, 1993

MEMBERS	GUESTS	EXHIBITS
1. DON CARLUCCI	1. Bob Erhard	FIRST BACK COVER
2. Jerry Porter	2. MARY COLBURN	3 IRISH COINERS
3. Jim Croninger	3.	
4. Dodger Hershey	4.	
5. Bob Dugliano	5.	
6. Charles N. Erb	6.	2- Canadian Tokens
7. Armer Murdoch	7.	
8. Harry Bant	8.	
9. Art Connor	9.	SO CALLED DOLLARS
10. Alux Bartano	10.	
11. Mike Homza	11.	USSR DECORATIONS FOR MOSCOW & WWII JAPAN
12. TED SHIFF	12.	
13. H. Carlson	13.	
14. Richard Crosby	14.	Peru Decimal Coinage
15. Jerry Vesce	15.	
16. Robert Kaminich	16.	
17. Wayne K. Homza	17.	PAMPHLET - Medallie Memorials of the Great Comets
18. Paul Gaydos	18.	Ancient Jewish Coins
19. Harry Stuhler	19.	
20. John H. Burns	20.	
21. Ed Kivonich	21.	ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL COINS
22.	22.	
23.	23.	
24.	24.	
25.	25.	
26.	26.	
27.	27.	
28.	28.	
29.	29.	
30.	30.	

On Tuesday, March 2, 1993 at 8:15 P.M., President Gerald Porter called the meeting to order. Twenty-one members and two guests were in attendance. Secretary, Donald Carlucci read the minutes of the February, 1993 meeting. The minutes were approved as read. Treasurer, Harry Colburn gave the Treasurer's report with a total balance of Three Thousand Four Hundred Ninety-Five Dollars and Seventy-Six Cents (\$3,495.76) for the month of February, 1993. Treasurer Colburn related that of this amount Six Hundred Dollars (\$600.00) was in the life membership fund and Two Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety-Five Dollars and Seventy-Six Cents (\$2,895.76) was in the general fund. The Treasurer's report was approved as read.

ALLEGHENY PROJECT

Richard Gaetano sold the last copy of the Brewery Tokens Journal. Of the eighty (80) journals that were printed, sixty-four (64) were sold and sixteen (16) copies were donated. It was decided that President Porter should print twenty (20) more copies for future sales and distribution.

WPNS HISTORY

Wayne Homren stated there was nothing new to report on the history of WPNS.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Membership Chairman, Lawrence Dziubek presented the nomination of E. Tomlinson Fort to WPNS members in attendance. Mr. Dziubek stated that Mr. Fort has been interested in numismatics for a period of seven years. He has memberships in English, French, and American numismatic societies. Mr. Fort was nominated by John Burns who wrote the original letter of endorsement. According to Mr. Fort's letter of application to the society, "his interest lies in learning more about numismatics as it relates to history and economics."

After a number of members spoke favorably on Mr. Fort's behalf, a vote by secret ballot was taken. E. Tomlinson Fort became the newest member of the Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Society.

CORRESPONDENCE

There were no letters of correspondence to report at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

President Porter reported that the show dates for the Pennsylvania Association of Numismatists Convention at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center had been changed. The new dates are October 15, 16, and 17, 1993. When it became apparent that a Washington, D.C. coin club was holding their show the same weekend as ours, Wayne Homren searched for a new date. His efforts were rewarded when he was able to book the PAN convention for the third week of October at the same location, the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. New dealer applications and show fliers will be printed and distributed.

NEW BUSINESS

Member Pat Pugliano is creating a computer program called the "Complete Coin Collector on CDROM". The program has been divided into the following categories:

- A. Utilities
- B. Database
- C. Coin Albums
- D. Bookshelf
- E. History
- F. Articles
- G. Possible Additions

Pat is attempting to put the history of coins in a computer package. In order to make the program complete, Pat needs assistance in three

major areas. They are as follows:

- A. Using your coins to illustrate areas that he does not collect himself
- B. Your input and suggestions for reading/research
- C. Articles you write and illustrate yourself

Pat feels that this will probably be a two year project with a completed volume that will contain from 500 to 900 pages.

PROGRAM

The program for the evening was "The Bar Copper" by club Treasurer, Harry Colburn. His talk on a single coin was both informative and intriguing. The coin, or perhaps token, first appeared in New York City in late 1785. This was during the period when coinage was in short supply and barter was the main means of business transactions. Coins were scarce. The United States Mint would not be in operation until 1793. The most familiar coins of the time were the large coppers from Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Jersey. The bar copper was slightly smaller in diameter than a common large cent and much thinner. On the obverse of the piece is the inscription USA. On the reverse are thirteen horizontal bars. A metallic burr is always on the second bar from the top.

After much research, Mr. Colburn has concluded that most experts do not know anything of the origin of the piece, its designer, or when it was even minted. Experts from the Smithsonian and the British Royal Mint have no information, neither did the British Museum. Kenneth Bressett states that no one knows anything about the history or origins of the bar cents. His educated assumption or guess is that it might be a token.

Walter Breen wrote that it was mentioned in the November 12, 1785 issue of the New Jersey Gazette. The piece is similar to the pewter buttons worn on the uniforms of the soldiers of the time. It

appeared first in New York City. From this data, Breen ascertained that the piece could have been struck by designer/engraver George Wyon, III. Other researchers claim that the pieces were struck in Cherry Street in Philadelphia.

After Harry completed his research, he concluded that not much new was discovered. The bar cent could have been struck in Philadelphia, or possibly, it could have been made in Birmingham, England.

Harry quoted the remarks of researcher, Richard Kennedy that stated many copies of the bar cent had been struck over the years to fill the cabinets of prominent coin collectors. Walter Breen thinks that there have been more copies or forgeries of the bar copper than any other coin of the colonial period.

Mr. Colburn showed a series of slides after his informative presentation. The slides illustrated a series of genuine pieces and a collection of cast copies.

EXHIBITS

After Mr. Colburn's informative presentation, individual club members discussed a wide array of collector items that were brought to the meeting. The exhibits included manuscripts from the Middle Ages; coinage from Peru; Soviet military decorations that included a medal from the War in Afghanistan and a Soviet World War II, Declaration of War Against Japan decoration; a French to Russian translation atlas, an encased pennies article; Canadian tokens; silver ski medal; a Brooklyn Coin Club medal; Irish coins; an elephant cup and glassware; first day covers; ancient coins; medieval pieces struck on roller dies; Irish gun money; a 1985-D Roosevelt dime error; a Pennsylvania counterstamped medal; and old dealer books.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 9:45 P.M. by Rodger Hershey and seconded by John Burns.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald D. Carlucci

Donald D. Carlucci

Secretary

The Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Society

P.O. Box 23404, Pittsburgh, PA 15222-9998



DATE: April 6, 1993

PLACE: Carnegie Group Offices,
5 PPG Place

TIME: 7:00 P.M. Meeting at 8:15 P.M.

The March meeting of WPNS was attended by twenty-one members and two guests.

The program for the April 6, 1993 meeting will be "Historical Subjects on Roman Republican Coins" as presented by W.P.N.S. member, Ralph Ruggiero.

W.P.N.S. is both pleased and proud to welcome its newest member, E. Tomlinson Fort. With Tom's vast historical and numismatic knowledge, he is certain to be an asset to the organization.

During the month of April, the following coin shows will be held:

- April 3-4 Central Pennsylvania Numismatic Association Show
Farm and Home Center
Arcadia Road, Route 72 and Route 30
Lancaster, PA
- April 25 Great Eastern U S Annual Spring Coin & Baseball Card Show
Agriculture Hall
Seventeenth & Chew Streets
Allentown, PA

We'll see you on Tuesday, April 6, 1993. Bring a friend! Bring an exhibit! Be there!

The Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Society

P.O. Box 23404, Pittsburgh, PA 15222-9998



March 22, 1993

E. Tomlinson Fort
17 River Road, Apartment 1
Pittsburgh, PA 15238

Dear Tom,

On behalf of the officers and members of the Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Society, I would personally like to congratulate you upon being voted in as the newest member of one of the oldest numismatic associations in America. From the few meetings that you have attended as a guest, you have come to realize that the greatest strength of the organization is the numismatic knowledge that its members possess, and their willingness to share it with others. I would hope that you would want to continue to contribute your own historical and numismatic knowledge to the group.

As part of this welcoming letter, I am enclosing your 1993 Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Society membership card.

Again, congratulations, we shall be looking forward to seeing you at the next W P N S meeting on April 6, 1993.

Respectfully yours,

Donald D. Carlucci
Donald D. Carlucci
Secretary

DDC/bm

Enc: